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President's Science Adviser Says He Is Resigning

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 — George A. Keyworth 2d, President Reagan's science adviser, said today that he was resigning and would leave the Administration at the end of the year to set up a private consulting concern.

Dr. Keyworth, one of the most ardent supporters of the Administration's proposal for a space-based antimissile defense, said he gave his resignation to Donald T. Regan, the White House chief of staff, on Wednesday. He said he would run the new concern with Herbert Meyer, deputy chairman of the National Intelligence Council, who is a former aide to William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence. Mr. Meyer has also disclosed his intention to resign by the end of the year.

Dr. Keyworth, whose 40th birthday is Saturday, was appointed in 1981, when he was heading the physics division at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

A graduate of Yale, he received his doctorate in physics at Duke University.

He is considered a protégé of Edward Teller, the leading figure in the invention of the hydrogen bomb.

Dr. Keyworth, after some initial skepticism about the promise of Mr. Reagan's proposal for a space-based defense system, became one of the Administration's most ardent proselytizers for the proposal.

Dr. Keyworth has been outspoken on other issues and stirred controversy last year when he said that many journalists were drawn from the far left of American society and were trying to "tear down" America.

Dr. Keyworth is credited by many scientists with bringing about increased budgets for basic scientific research. He said he has been "deeply immersed" in the issue of industrial competitiveness as science adviser.

Dr. Keyworth's strongest White House ally has been Edwin Meese 3d, who is now Attorney General. Dr. Keyworth said that his new concern would advise other companies on how they should be organized to evaluate and act

on world economic and political trends. He said that most of his clients would probably be "nondefense" concerns.

Mr. Meyer, 39, worked as an editor at Fortune magazine before going to the Central Intelligence Agency. The National Intelligence Council compiles classified information for the Government.

The post of White House science adviser was established after the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite in 1957. President Nixon abolished the position, but President Carter re-established it.